



tinguish the different classes of the workmen.

The last example is taken from a beautifully illuminated manuscript of the latter part of the fifteenth century (MS. Harl. No. 4376), containing an ancient history of the world

of receiving his orders from the prince or duke, under whose auspices the city has been founded. The smaller cut, taken from the same manuscript, represents a group of builders, with a trowel and hod of mortar, at work upon a tower,—not upon a chimney, as the artist's proportions would have led us to suppose.

In reviewing and comparing these various representations of the same process at so widely distant periods, we are struck much less with their diversity than with the close resemblance between both workmen and tools which continues amid the rapid and continual changes in the condition and manners of society. Whether this be in any measure to be attributed to the circumstance of the masons forming a permanent society among themselves, which transmitted its doctrines and fashions unchanged from father to son, it is not very easy to determine. But it is certainly remarkable, that at the period when architecture flourished most, the date of some of the richest portions of the cathedral of Chartres, the masons should be represented with crowns of laurel on their heads.



MARBLE CONSOLE FROM THE SOANE MUSEUM.



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This engraving below represents a marble console from the collection in Lincoln's Inn Fields, similar in character to the ornamental capitals which have appeared in former numbers.

THE BRITTON TESTIMONIAL.

SINCE our last notice of the proposed testimonial to Mr. Britton, the Earl de Grey, Mr. Decimus Burton, Mr. Edward Willson, of Lincoln, Mr. G. Baker, of Northampton, Mr. Moran, the Dean of Hereford, Mr. Joseph Hume, M.P., and many other eminent men have joined the committee. At a meeting held last Saturday it was decided, as Mr. Britton had disinterestedly declined receiving any personal offering, that a premium of 100 guineas should be offered for the best "Bibliographical Review of Illustrated Literature devoted to the Architectural Antiquities of Great Britain," to be inscribed to Mr. Britton, and published by the committee. Of this essay every subscriber of one guinea will receive a copy, and it is further proposed, if the sum subscribed should prove sufficient, either to have a portrait of the worthy veteran painted and engraved for distribution, or a good medal struck. At the same meeting it was resolved that Mr. Britton should be invited to a public dinner at Richmond on the 7th of July, his 74th birthday, to meet his friends and the lovers of architectural antiquities; and a sub-committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements.

Few men have laboured so long, steadily, and successfully as Mr. Britton. No one can examine his beautiful work on the *Cathedral Antiquities*, and then look at the works illustrative of our architecture which had appeared before his time, without seeing what a step in advance was then made; and we must remember that he could not then find artists to draw and engrave with facility and precision, as it is easy to do now, but was compelled to lead them up to it, and may be said to have produced a school. We sincerely hope, and have no reason to doubt, that the subscription will be very large, and the result a crowning gratification to Mr. Britton. We will gladly transmit to the committee any subscriptions which may be forwarded to our office.

MOVEMENT IN SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

OUR readers will remember that a series of suggestions were referred by the members in March last to the council for their consideration, with a request that they should report on them at the anniversary. (See p. 139 *ante*). The anniversary passed by, and no reference was made by the council to the matters submitted to them; much discontent was exhibited, and many of the members have been led to fear that the governing body would draw upon themselves some sweeping interference from without, which might have been altogether avoided by a timely concurrence with the generally expressed opinions of the members.

We are glad to be the first to announce that the council have begun to act on the suggestions then made. The payment of 2s. 6d. to the librarian by each member on receipt of his half-yearly "part" of the transactions is abolished: the price of former publications of the society is reduced to members very considerably; and other alterations are contemplated, and it is to be hoped will be made, so that confidence may be restored and dissension avoided. A young and zealous man should be appointed to assist Mr. Carlisle in his duties as secretary; the council should meet a little oftener; and no gentleman should be elected president or vice-president who is not sufficiently interested, and sufficiently at liberty, to enter into the affairs of the society. To the council we say, seriously, continue to shew a desire to meet the wishes of the members, and on all accounts preserve peace.

It is singular, as well as unfortunate, that dissensions should exist at the same moment to three important societies. At the Antiquaries it will be entirely the fault of the council if unanimity is not restored forthwith.